

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 310565
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S E C R E T STATE 310565

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TAGS: PFOR NI US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO GENERAL OBASANJO

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
GENERAL OBASANJO WHICH SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE GENERAL ASAP.

DEAR GENERAL OBASANJO:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 25, WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY,
REACHED ME ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO. I TOO AM PLEASED BY THE CLOSE
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO
THAT RELATIONSHIP CONTINUING.

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RECENT EVENTS HAVE REINFORCED MY BELIEF THAT WE MUST MOVE
RAPIDLY TOWARD A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, UNDER THE PRINCIPLES IN
THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER OF SEPTEMBER 1 AND IN DR. OWEN'S STATE-
MENT ON LAW AND ORDER OF THE SAME DAY. THESE DOCUMENTS CONSTITUTE
A JUST, DURABLE, AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO TRANSFORM RHODESIA
FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY RULE IN A PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY

MANNER. I AM COMMITTED TO THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, LOYALLY SERVED BY AN ARMY BASED ON THE CURRENT LIBERATION FORCES.

THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE IN LATE NOVEMBER UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR A RAPID, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I HAVE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT MACHEL MY CONCERN OVER REPEATED RHODESIAN VIOLATIONS OF HIS NATION'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND ASSURED HIM OF OUR INTENT TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN HIS COUNTRY.

I AM PLEASED THAT, FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING IN BEIRA, THE PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ANGOLA REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S INTEREST IN RENEWED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ALSO A GOOD SIGN. THE STATEMENT ISSUED IN MAPUTO ON DECEMBER 8 BY MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE AND THEIR LETTER TO DR. OWEN OF THE SAME DATE CONTAIN MANY INACCURACIES, BUT THEIR MESSAGE CONVEYED A WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A RESPONSE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S LETTER TO DR. OWEN, WHICH WILL RENEW HIS INVITATION TO MEET WITH MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE AND WHICH WILL LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, WITH OUR SUPPORT.

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AS YOU KNOW, WHEN WE HAVE A FIRM AGREEMENT AMONG THE FRONT LINE COUNTRIES, NIGERIA, AND NATIONALIST GROUPS ON THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT THE PROPOSALS IN A FINAL FORM TO THE RHODESIAN REGIME AND TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. OUR HOPE IS THAT THE RHODESIANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS WILL RECOGNIZE THE ESSENTIAL JUSTICE, PRACTICALITY AND DURABILITY OF THE PLAN AND ACCEPT IT WILLINGLY.

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT SMITH'S ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH EXCLUDES THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND WHICH, IN OTHER WAYS, IS INTERNATIONALLY UNACCEPTABLE, WILL NOT LEAD TO A VIABLE STATE OR AN ENDURING PEACE. WE DO NOT WISH SUCH A SITUATION.

FINALLY, I WISH TO STATE HOW DEEPLY WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA. I HAVE APPRECIATED YOUR ADVICE AND COUNSEL IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO RHODESIA, AND I WILL RELY ON YOU IN THE FUTURE. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE STAY IN TOUCH NOW, AS WE TRY TO OVERCOME THE FINAL OBSTACLES TO A JUST SETTLEMENT FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

ROSALYNN AND I SEND YOU OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER.

2. ORIGINAL OF LETTER BEING POUCHED.
VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, TEXT, SECTO, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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